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With the Colors

12/15/44

At an Advanced Italian Airbase.—A number of Illinois men, including Staff Sergeants Paul B. Stanley of Newton and Lloyd A. Howe of Oblong are among the personnel of the 350th Fighter group, which has just been cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations.

The award of the streamer of a Distinguished unit was made by Major General John K. Cannon. In company with Group Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ariel W. Neilsen of Berkeley, California, and in the presence of the officers and men of the group drawn up in parade formation, General Cannon advanced to the group's color guard and affixed the Distinguished unit streamer to the group's regimental colors.

The group, which was formed in Great Britain in 1942, has been overseas for two years, and has taken part in every major campaign in the Mediterranean Theatre.

The citation, read at the ceremony by Captain Walter Maciey of Frackville, Pennsylvania, read in part as follows: "In contributing to the success of the operation strangle, a vital phase of the Allied effort which resulted in the liberation of Rome, the 350th Fighter group performed above and beyond the call of duty in rendering unique and heroic services. Of their own volition and in addition to their designated duties, personnel within the group successfully interdicted supply routes at such strategic points as Tarquinia, Gresseto, Leghorn and Pisa, while continuously maintaining their regularly assigned reconnaissance patrols and sea searches covering Corsica, Sardinia, Tunisia, Italy and the Tyrrhenian and Ligurian seas.

"The outstanding leadership, tireless devotion to duty and extraordinary heroism displayed by the officers and men of the 350th Fighter group during combat operations on April 6, 1944 have set this group above and apart from other units involved in comparable effort during the same period and have reflected great credit upon themselves and the military service of the United States."

Navy Seabees, working with Naval Air Station mechanics at a mid-Pacific base, helped solve a technical problem that threatened to ground the huge Mars, world's largest flying boat.

The Mars had arrived at the base with a dead motor and motor replacement was found necessary. The major problem was the size of the flying boat. It was too heavy to run up on land and water currents and wind made the maneuver too dangerous to nose it close to a pier.

Two Seabee chief petty officers and a detail of three handled the problem by bringing the Mars as near the ramp as possible, then hoisting the dead motor with a crane by swinging the boom out across the broad wing.

Jesse J. Langwill, chief machinist's mate, 524 South Santa Fe avenue, Chanute, Kansas, and George W. Henderson, chief carpenter's mate, 315 Walnut street, Newton, Illinois, were in charge of the project. The other three Seabees were: Jewell T. McGinty, boatswain's mate, second class, 217 South Central avenue, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, Quincy A. McComas, coxswain, 1511 Hillside drive, Reno, Nevada, and Robert C. Haynes, machinist's mate, third class, 7791 Rorrer avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

McGinty had to lower a fifty foot boom at a flat twenty degree angle, clearing the top of the wing by only four inches. Sandbags were then placed on the end of the wing to counterbalance when weight of the motor was lifted from the nacelle. The operation was successful, the new motor installed and the repair crew had a test hop for their trouble.

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Mrs. Sadie Williams of Rose Hill has received word from her son, Corporal Glen Williams, who is with General John S. Wood and his men on the fighting line in Germany. These men are all under the command of General John S. Patton.

These men were under intensive military training in Pine Camp, New York, before being sent overseas. After landing in France they made lightning advances across that country under General Wood, assisted by General Holmes E. Dager and Colonel Bruce C. Clark. They repelled some of the severest German attacks and forces in the crossings of the Somme, Loire, Yvonne, Seine, Marne, Meruce, Moselle and Meuse rivers. The division was called by the Germans, the American Fourth Armored Elite

division (some Germans called them ruthless) and the men were referred to as supermen.

General Wood is a very brave and daring general. He was born in Arkansas, January 11, 1888, but now resides at Marbroth, Pennsylvania.

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The Press is in receipt of a Christmas greeting, sent V-mail from Chief Yeoman Thomas S. Marshall, who is overseas at a Naval base. It shows the Star of Bethlehem, the sea, several palms and some Christmas packages, with this message: "Here amid the desert sand and lonely palms, across great seas and mighty lands, our Christmas comes."

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Word has been received from Sergeant D. O. Chapman that he has landed safely somewhere in Italy. He has been a cook at all times since entering the service, which will be two years in February. He cooked meals on the boat going over.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Chapman of Newton vicinity.

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Seamen Second Class Edward Ray Foltz of Newton and Francis Bailey of Willow Hill vicinity have been transferred to the Naval Pre-Flight school at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, for further training. They have been at Memphis, Tennessee, for the past month, at the Naval Air Station.

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Mrs. Jason Smith of near Hunt City has received a package from her son, Private First Class Clyde Smith, who is in Bougainville. The package contained one snow white all wool blanket and two cream colored wool blankets. Presumably the blankets are a product of Australia.

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Seaman First Class Russell D. McCoy has sent his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Everett McCoy of near Hunt City, two pieces of Japanese Philippine money. One was a one peso and the other a fifty centavo note. Both bear the words "The Japanese Government."

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Mrs. Arthur Woods and daughter Brenda have returned home from Centreville, Mississippi, after spending the past two months with Private Arthur Woods, who is stationed with the 144th Infantry Service company at Camp Van Dorn, near Centreville.

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Seaman Second Class Earl Michl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Michl of Newton, writes that he is being transferred from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station to the Naval Amphibious Training Station at Little Creek, Virginia, near Norfolk.

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Technical Sergeant Carl E. Chapman has returned to Fort Bliss, Texas, after spending a twelve day furlough with his wife and son, and other relatives at Willow Hill. He is stationed with the Antiaircraft Command at Fort Bliss.

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Mr. and Mrs. Alva M. Allen have received a letter from their son, Carl C. Allen, stating he is well and getting along o. k. He has been promoted to chief radio technician. He was in the Philippine invasion.

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Melvin Chapman of Newton has been promoted to chief yeoman. He

is on an aircraft carrier in the Atlantic. He was on the U. S. S. Lexington, when it was sunk during the battle of the Coral sea in May, 1942.

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Sergeant William R. Andrews of Indianapolis is in a hospital in England recovering from wounds received November 6 in Luxemburg. He is a grand-son of Charles Holm, formerly of near Wheeler.

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Lieutenant Fred B. Alcorn of Newton, who has been with an Army Postal unit at Camp Lee, Virginia, has been sent overseas with a postal unit to the European Theatre of Operations.

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Kenneth Jones, machinist's mate third class, sends Christmas greetings from Hawaii. He is a Naval Construction battalion and has been in the South Pacific a year with the Seabees.

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James Lobmier and Harry Maginn are home on leave from the Navy, visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lobmier of near Newton and Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Maginn of Boos vicinity.

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George Bevis, who has been receiving his Naval pre-flight training at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, is spending Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Bevis of Newton.

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Seaman First Class Leroy D. Shaner, son of Mrs. Golda Sempstrott of Willow Hill, writes home that he participated in the invasion of the Philippines.

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Corporal Paul Adkins has been given a discharge from the Army and has returned to be home with his wife and baby.

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Bill Bunton, who is in the Navy, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bunton of near Newton.